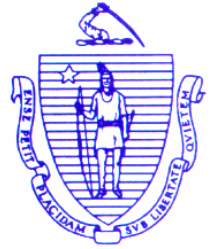




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**April 14, 2003**  
**Press Release**

## **ASMFC PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT ADDENDUM VIII TO THE SUMMER FLOUNDER FMP TO BE HELD APRIL 28.**

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On Monday, April 28th the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will hold a public hearing on Draft Addendum VIII to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Since 1996, summer flounder recreational harvest has consistently exceeded established limits for the fishery. When regulations fail to constrain landings effectively the resulting exploitation rate is higher than the target. This leads to overfishing and slower stock recovery.

The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board developed Draft Addendum VIII to address the problem of overages in recreational landings. Specifically, the Draft Addendum presents the public with a suite of management options for the 2003 recreational summer flounder fishery, including strategies that allow for repayment of harvest overages in subsequent year(s), carry-over of unused recreational harvest from one year to the next, and allocation of commercial quota based on TAL limits calculated without recreational overages. It also includes the option to maintain the status quo.

The hearing will be held from 7 – 10 PM on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Forestdale School (151 Route 130, Forestdale, MA 02644). For further information please visit our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).

Copies of Draft Addendum VIII can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org).  
Public comment on the document will be accepted until **April 30, 2003** and should be forwarded to Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or <[mlewis@asmfc.org](mailto:mlewis@asmfc.org)>.